



Area West Chapter Update 2021/22

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Purpose of the Report

To provide Members with an update of this year's delivery of the Area Chapter for Area West.

Public Interest

The priorities for Area West are used to influence the development of the Council Plan. Some priorities identified clearly have an area focus and are better placed in an Area Chapter. The Area Chapter presents key projects and areas of work planned for the coming year by teams from across the whole organisation.

This report provides members with an update on the 2021/22 Chapter.

Recommendation

That members note and comment on the report.

Background

Area Chapters focus on the priorities of the Area Committee. These priorities were identified by Members and SSSC Area + teams through member workshops, other service plans and data led information. The Chapter forms part of the Council Plan.

Area + teams consist of officers across the council who are best placed to provide the resources necessary (people and financial) in order to delivery each priority set out in the chapter. Each action or project identified in the plan is allocated a lead officer who collaborates with other officers across the council and/or the local community to deliver the project. The overall approach to delivery is based on the principle that we will enable others to deliver where we can, partner where it makes sense and only deliver if absolutely necessary.

Delivery of the Area Chapter

Members will appreciate the ongoing restrictions and road maps out of the pandemic have ultimately meant that some project work has been difficult to achieve, complete or has caused delays.

Appendix A sets out this year's progress and overview of the area Chapter focus priorities.

Community Grant Awards

There have been three grants awarded so far this financial year and there are two applications pending. The ability for community groups to delivery projects is likely to be hindered due to the pandemic, however hopefully we will see an increase in requests over the next 6 months.

If Members are aware of any groups who would benefit from a Community grant please ask them to check our website for further information and eligibility <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/your-council/your-council-plan-and-strategies/communities/grants-and-other-support-for-the-voluntary-and-community-sector/> or contact Communities@southsomerset.gov.uk.

Grants are awarded to charities, non-profit organisations and Town and Parish Councils. We can award up to a maximum of 50% of the application value and request there is support from the Parish or Town Council, as well as having considered other possible funding options. Requests between £101 and £12,500 are considered under this scheme.

Grant funding is available for a range of projects, which benefit the community including:

- Covering the cost of hiring a room/pitch or equipment to help start new activities
- Booking a coach or activity leader to help increase use of local facilities
- Helping to subsidise the cost of transport to get your idea moving
- Training for volunteers to make a difference in your community
- Getting some expert help for designs or other advice and guidance
- Environmental projects and initiatives

Revenue balance remaining (minus pending applications) and to be spent by end of financial year is £8,170

Capital balance remaining, this is a rolling programme is £74,000

Financial Implications

None for this report.

Council Plan Implications

The priorities have been developed taking into account the SSDC Corporate plan and Area Chapter priorities.



Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications

This is considered on an individual project and programme basis as appropriate. The overall priority is to seek to create more balanced communities where people can live, work and get access to the services and facilities they need on a daily basis. Area working (Area+) helps to improve access to facilities, activities and services, reducing the need to travel.

All Community Grants applications are now assessed and scored against the environmental impact of projects.

Equality and Diversity Implications

This is considered on an individual project and programme basis as appropriate. All Area Plans will have an Equality Impact Assessment.

Background Papers

- Area Chapter Outturn report, Appendix A - Area West Committee (Informal) May 2021
 - Area West Chapter 2021/22
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